

## ABSTRACT

The invention relates to a A gas discharge source, in particular, for generating extreme ultraviolet and/or soft X-radiation, in which has a gas-filled intermediate electrode space [(3)] located between two electrodes, (1, 2), in which devices for the admission and evacuation of gas are present, and in which one electrode (1) exhibits that has an opening [(5)] that defines an axis of symmetry [(4)] and is provided for the discharge of radiation. The proposed improvements constitute the presence of a A diaphragm (6), which exhibits at least one opening [(7)] on the axis of symmetry [(4)] and operates as a differential pump stage, between the two electrodes (1, 2).

Fig-2